



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

STANDING UP FOR SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES



Governor Whitmer has worked to ensure Michigan's veterans, service members, and their families have the opportunities and support they need to succeed. She has announced innovative partnerships to create pathways to professional opportunities, created programs to lower the cost of education for those who served and their families, and opened new facilities for the Michigan National Guard. The administration has boosted outreach to veterans, ensuring they and their families have affordable healthcare, attainable housing, and paths to good-paying jobs.

"Our men and women in uniform serve our state honorably and we have to do everything we can to help them do their jobs effectively and thrive when they return home. I've been focused on establishing programs to expand opportunity, delivering resources, and making changes at the state-level to recognize the sacrifices of our veterans and servicemembers."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Recognizing Michigan's servicemembers, veterans, and military families

- Proclaimed [Veterans Day in Michigan](#).
- Declared [Women Veterans Recognition Day](#).
- Appointed over 100 active military and veterans to numerous boards and commissions.
- [Appointed by President Biden](#) to the Council of Governors to work with state and federal officials on issues of homeland defense, National Guard, disaster response, and other security issues.

Securing paths to opportunity and career advancement

- Signed [bipartisan bills](#) to make it easier for military service members, veterans, and their dependents to enter a licensed profession.
- Helped lead the Council of Governors' Workforce Workgroup, which ensures our National Guard and Department of Defense are "workplaces of choice" that value and invest in current and potential servicemembers and their families.
- [Announced a partnership](#) between the Michigan National Guard (MING) and Michigan Helmets to Hardhats, a national program administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Veterans Employment that works to connect veterans to skill-training opportunities and careers in the construction trades.
- Permitted service members to [transfer tuition assistance](#) under the Michigan National Guard Tuition Assistance Program to their spouses.
- Supported the [Michigan Youth Challenge Academy](#), a program to educate, train, and mentor at-risk youth at no cost to participants, giving young people the skills to become productive and responsible citizens. More than 500 graduates.
- Reinvigorated the Michigan [Veteran Friendly Schools Program](#), to highlight Michigan educational institutions that support the needs of military-connected students.

- Hosted the Air Force's largest and longest exercise in combat operations, [Mobility Guardian](#), at the Alpena CRTC in May 2021.
- Worked with hundreds of employers to promote veteran-friendly hiring practices to help overcome employment shortages caused by the pandemic.

Providing services for veterans, servicemembers, and military

- Increased funding for veteran's services organizations.
- Secured funding for a new [state veterans cemetery](#) in Grayling and to evaluate the need for a state veterans cemetery in northern Michigan.
- Created [Check on MiVet](#), serving over 500 families requesting a check-in on their veteran from the Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center.
- Partnered with the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the USDVA to bring the [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families](#) to our communities across Michigan.
- Invested in [suicide prevention outreach](#) and services for service members, veterans, and their families.
- Launched "[She is a Veteran](#)" outreach campaign to reach the 47,000 women veterans in Michigan.
- Oversaw Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) receiving the state's fourth [Abraham Lincoln Pillar Award](#) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) that recognizes outstanding programs that support Veterans in their states.
- Signed a [bill](#) eliminating the fee associated with having a veteran-designated license plate.

Investing in facilities for veterans and servicemembers

- [Secured funding](#) for the construction of a new veteran's home in Marquette.
- [Secured funding](#) to expand the Selfridge Air National Guard base in Macomb.
- Invested [\\$115 million](#) to [modernize facilities](#) for all Michigan National Guard armories to accommodate female service members.
- Celebrated the completion and opening of [two new Michigan Veterans Home facilities](#), one replacement facility in Grand Rapids and a new facility in Chesterfield Township in Macomb County.
- Opened the [Kelly Johnson Joint All Domain Innovation Center](#) for military members, government, and industry professionals to research and collaborate.
- Reorganized Camp Grayling's Joint Maneuver Training Center and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Northern Michigan as the "[National All-Domain Warfighting Center](#)," recognizing Michigan's integral role as one of the leading providers of solutions to training and readiness needs. Hosted approximately 10,000 U.S. military and coalition forces between 2019 and 2021.

Overseeing deployments

- A total 6,350 National Guardsman were deployed for civil support, COVID support and OCONUS/CONUS missions in Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, California, Washington DC, Arizona, Florida, Haiti, the southwest border, CENTCOM, EUCOM, and AFRICOM.
- More than 200 Soldiers and more than 40 specialized vehicles aided following flooding in the Midland area resulting from the breach of the Edenville and Sanford Dams.
- Assisted law enforcement and repaired property damage in Grand Rapids and Lansing after extreme weather.
- Ensured the safety of citizens and mitigated property damage in partnership with Michigan State Police and local law enforcement in Kalamazoo.
- Supported public safety and protected the First Amendment right to peaceful assembly in Kenosha, Wisconsin.
- Oversaw nearly 3,200 service members from Joint Task Force Michigan conducted over 2,300 coronavirus response missions in all 83 counties.